

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 021430Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2337

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JO

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE

1. JORDANIAN PRESS SEPTEMBER 2 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF AHMAD 'IBAYDAT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE AND PROMOTION FROM BRIGADIER TO MAJOR GENERAL. FORMER GID DIRECTOR LT. GEN. RASOUL KILAANI WILL RETAIN POST AS ROYAL COUNSELOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. 'IBAYDAT WAS HIS DEPUTY.

2. 'IBAYDAT, ABOUT 38, IS HIGHLY COMPETENT, HARD-WORKING CAREER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FROM IRBID AND FORMERLY DEPUTY GID DIRECTOR. HE HAS LAW DEGREE FROM DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT ATTRIBUTE MUCH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO SHIFT IN GID DIRECTORS. KILAANI HAS SHOWN CUMULATIVE SIGNS OF STRAIN IN JOB OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND HIS REMOVAL RUMORED FOR SOME TIME. THERE ARE SOME REPORTS OF A CONFLICT
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WITH PM RIFAI. SHIFT OF KILAANI'S DEPUTY 'IBAYDAT TO

TOP GID POST (MAINLY OPERATIONAL) AND KILAANI'S RETNETION
IN PALACE INTELLIGENCE JOB (MAINLY EVALUATIVE) SHOULD STRENGTHEN
EFFICIENCY AND INSURE CONTINUITY OF INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS.
ALTHOUGH KILAANI'S REMOVAL BY KING WAS EXPECTED, THE SUCCESSFUL
INFILTRATION OF TWO FEDAYEEN GROUPS TO WEST BANK IN LAST TWO
WEEKS UNDOUBTEDLY HASTENED HIS EXIT. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT
HOWEVER THAT GID HAS GENERALLY BEEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN
THWARTING FEDAYEEN INFILTRATIONS PLANS, AND KILAANI'S REMOVAL
WE BELIEVE INDICATES CONTINUING GOJ INTEREST IN FOLLOWING THIS
POLICY. KING TOLD AMBASSADOR CHANGE WAS TO RELEASE KILAANI FOR
MORE EVALUATIVE WORK IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT GREATER INTEL
ANALYSIS CAPABILITY NEAR KING, AND ALSO TO PERMIT KILAANI
TO TRAVEL WITH KING MORE OFTEN.
PICKERING

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